

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

¶17:

The penetrator 32 (Figs. 2 and 3) may have specially tailored side wall angles, or coatings, to facilitate coupling into the optical fiber 36 and minimize back reflections into the VCSEL 34. The penetrator 32 may be fabricated out of suitable optically transparent material such as plastic or glass. The penetrator 32 may be etched into the substrate of a bottom illuminated or bottom emitting optoelectronic device. The penetrator 32 may be bonded to the optoelectronic device 34 with suitable adhesive or in any other suitable manner that will firmly connect the two devices so as not to adversely impair the transfer of light from the VCSEL 34 through the penetrator 32 to the optical fiber 36. The penetrator 32 may be sharp enough to pierce the plastic optical fiber 36 at ambient temperature by pressing it into the ~~same~~ optical fiber 36 a suitable depth, preferably without going all the way through the optical fiber 36. In the preferred embodiment, the penetrator 32 extends at least half way across the diameter of the optical fiber 36. Alternatively, the plastic optical fiber 36 may be heated to a predetermined temperature above ambient sufficient to soften the same to ease and facilitate the insertion process. Where the penetrator 32 is also made of a plastic material care should be taken not to soften the same, either by separately heating the plastic optical fiber 36 and/or by fabricating the penetrator 32 out of a plastic material with a significantly higher melting point. Alternatively, the penetrator 32 could be heated to ease and facilitate the insertion process.